

Amusements To-Night.		
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ADAMS OPERA HOUSE.—"The Merry War."	8.15	The Merry War.
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The State Charities Aid Association some two or three months ago. The trouble is that the laws are not enforced—why, it has never been clearly stated. Possibly a commission like the one suggested in the State Senate yesterday might find out. It is commonly reported that the State Charities Aid Association knows more than it has ever told, but not more than it would be willing to tell if it had an official opportunity. Is there not in anybody's possession a long list of names of the delinquent owners of tenement-houses?

The storm of Democratic opposition raised at Albany last week against the Roosevelt municipal reform bills seem to have entirely subsided, and judging from the work done in the Assembly yesterday, these measures will now be rapidly pushed forward. The bills affecting the compensation of the County Clerk and the Register were ordered to a third reading. Some disposition was shown to amend the County Clerk bill by putting in a clause which would regulate the pay of other County Clerks through the State. It would not be strange if a good many County Clerks outside of this city did need some legislative attention. But it should be given to them in the shape of a separate law. There are many reasons why the measures affecting this city should not be complicated by clauses relating to other places. So the Assembly thought and wisely acted accordingly.

If Governor Cleveland has been hesitating to remove Sheriff Davidson because that official was "under fire" in the courts in this city, he need not hesitate any longer on that score. Sheriff Davidson does not show that readiness to stand up bravely under fire that an innocent injured man would be likely to display. On the contrary, he is trying to avoid a trial on every possible technicality, and squirms and twists as if he were conscious of a great many things, but not of his own integrity. Yet, Sheriff Davidson would be sure to have as impartial a trial before Judge Barrett and a jury in the Court of Oyer and Terminer as it is possible for a man to have. Why doesn't he walk up like a man and prove that he is pure and unspotted from ill-gotten gains? And if he will not walk up, why should he expect the Governor to have so much tender regard for his feelings?

The assertion of the Austrian police that two men now under arrest in Vienna on the charge of murder were acting on orders from an association in this city is interesting, and if there is any proof of the statement important results might follow. Kammerer, one of the men, certainly lived in New-York some years ago and was a Socialist; but beyond the fact that he indulged in all kinds of wild threats toward every person more decent and better off than himself, there is no reason to believe that he is the agent of any secret society. If he murdered the banker, as is supposed, he probably did it for the sake of robbery, or because he is crazy. Some weeks ago a lot of low fellows who once knew Kammerer met in Irving Hall and passed a resolution declaring that the Emperor of Austria ought to be killed. The newspapers in Vienna published accounts of that meeting, and it is likely that the police of that city have jumped to the conclusion that this murderer was trying to carry out its orders.

The Democratic House of Representatives is plainly determined to fill up the measure of its stupidity full to overflowing. Yesterday it passed the bill for the suppression of the trade dollar. This was not a satisfactory measure in the first place; but it was redeemed from utter badness by the clause directing that as the trade dollars reached the Treasury they should be received and counted as part of the two millions now required to be coined into standard silver dollars every month. Mr. Bland opposed this clause and succeeded in getting the House to strike it out by a vote of 131 to 118. Therefore, now going on at the rate of 24,000,000 a year, to be further swelled by 8,000,000. Yet Mr. Bland is the man for whom Mr. Carlisle stood godfather when he gave him the name of Chairman of the Committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures, saying, he "will do nothing hostile to the financial interests of the country"; and "his appointment does not necessarily mean the continued coinage of silver dollars." This is why we should laugh if the matter were not so serious.

**THE MADNESS AT CINCINNATI.**  
Since last Friday night people have sought for an explanation of the terrible doings of the mob in Cincinnati. There seemed to be an awful, and from the surface inexplicable, disproportion between the immediate and patent provocation and the wild fury of the rioters. Could the fact that one murderer, and he a boy of seventeen, had escaped hanging through the chicanery of lawyers and the corruption or stupidity of a jury transform a community which for years had presented to the world the picture of a careless, contented, pleasure-loving people, into a mob of howling madmen, devastating demons, reckless of blood and destruction? If not, whence came the devil who snatched his face with the blood of two hundred dead and wounded and exulted as his flames consumed the records of the law courts?

Those who 't know hardly dare tell; for the telling involves a confession that is damning to the good citizenship of those who are charged in law and morals with the maintenance of good order and the creation and conservation of a sound public morality. The fact which confronts every honest observer is that the three nights of terror through which Cincinnati passed between Friday and Monday were the fruition of as many decades of political and moral degeneracy. During the last decade every year added to the momentum with which the city pursued its downward course, but those who watched were all but silent. A few sporadic reform movements sprang up, but were silently choked, and there was none to utter a telling protest on the records.

The indifference to the things which are essential to municipal health in Cincinnati extended far beyond the abuses in the criminal law courts. It had permeated all branches of the city and county administration, and had infected many social activities. Still it was the grossest form that finally opened the eyes and broke the patience of the people. It is not difficult to recall from memory a few of the flagrant instances of miscarried justice in the courts of Cincinnati which help to explain the uprising of last week. That uprising in its first stage every body admits was rooted in honest and justifiable indignation. It is not many years, certainly within ten, that the city was horrified at what was called the "tanyard murder." A young man, while carrying a horse in the early evening in a stable in a tanyard within the city limits, was attacked by two men and a boy. He was unarmed and helpless. The murderers ran their victim through the body with a pitchfork, and plunged the sharp end of a heavy plank splinter into his bowels. Whether he was dead or not when the men hunted for means to conceal their crime the investigations of the newspaper reporters left undetermined. At all

events, the horror of the deed was intensified by the possibility that when the three dragged their bloody sacrifice across the tanyard and thrust him into a furnace life may not have been quite extinct. The fire left a charred rump to tell of the crime. The three murderers were apprehended, and after lying in jail for a few days, the boy confessed the crime, giving all the details of the killing with a blood-curdling particularity and absence of feeling which told of an almost incomprehensible degree of moral imbecility. Not one of the three was hanged.

One day in a beer shop in Vine-st. two men quarrelled over a game of cards. One was a pale-faced, sickly young man, the other a burly, bullet-headed giant. The first was a stranger in the town; no one knew him, no one cared for him—not even the law, as the sequel showed. The second was an employee of John Robinson's circus. A few words passed between the men, when the latter struck the sickly stranger a blow on the temple with his fist; then quietly left the place. The young man let fall his head on his arm and complained of a terrible pain. There was no external sign of serious injury, but the bartender bathed his head with ammonia and sent him home in a street-car. An hour or two later he was found lying dead at his lodgings. An autopsy revealed that his skull, which was very thin at the temple, had been broken and a piece forced into the brain. The Coroner of Hamilton County carried this round piece of bone, this plain evidence of the cause of death, into the courtroom. The prisoner testified that he had struck the dead man with his open hand. The Coroner testified that a blow of the kind described could not cause death. The murderer was acquitted.

About five years ago a Democratic politician who had been secretary of the Water Works Board, and Chief of Police, shot and killed a policeman in the Central Police Station of the city. It was on a Sunday afternoon, and an hour before the men had been in a brawl in a street-car in Vine-st., but neither had made use of deadly weapons. The daughter of the policeman had been the mistress of the politician, and had been discarded for a variety of reasons. The collision between the men had grown out of a hair-pulling between the women. The men were separated before harm was done. The politician was arrested, but was taken to a newspaper office instead of the police station. Fifteen minutes later he went to the station in a carriage. The policeman renewed the wordy wrangle when the politician entered. The ex-chief gave plain evidence of a wicked purpose by putting his hand to his pistol the moment the policeman, who was in his shirt-sleeves and plainly without a weapon of any kind, addressed him. The policeman made a step toward the ex-chief and was at once seized by three or four officers; not one touched the man who had warned that he would kill and had the means. In the hands of his colleagues the policeman was shot to death. The indictment was for "manslaughter"; the verdict "not guilty."

But it is not in cases of this character alone that a criminal carelessness or something even worse was permitted to grow up in Cincinnati. It is just two years since an effort was made by a then recently elected Mayor, pledged to attempt a reform, to enforce the Sunday Liquor Law. Many arrests of flagrant violators were made, and a test case was brought before the Police Court. On the witness stand the defendant admitted all that was charged in the warrant. The jury found that he had not violated the law. The case was ended. There was no opportunity to test the constitutionality of the law which the liquor interest, the most aggressive element in the politics of the city, was contending; and the effort to compel respect for plain laws on the statute books collapsed like a punctured bubble.

In 1866 three men were hanged in Hamilton County for committing a murder while attempting highway robbery. Since then there have been two capital convictions. One man, a negro, was hanged; the sentence of the other was commuted to imprisonment for life. It can be left to the now quickened conscience of Cincinnati to explain how such a laxity in the administration of the penal laws as is indicated by these few out of many instances was permitted to grow up. The fault is not with the laws; they are as sound in Ohio as here. To us it is a phenomenon that has its corollary in the public spirit of the city to become a byword throughout the country; which has compelled the admission from good citizens more than once that Cincinnati is woefully sunk in more than one species of politics of the last which has stripped its politics of the last vestige of dignity and patriotism; which has kept the machinery of municipal administration as unstable as water by changing it for party ends with almost every change in the political dominancy in the State; which has given rise to the conviction, now expressed in blood and destruction, that there exists a ring in the city which has practically controlled at least one branch of the law administration of Hamilton County for years. This gives significance to the intelligence which the telegraphic dispatches have brought, that one of the men whose names were howled by the mob in its frenzy has barricaded his house and said that he will never plead the cause of a criminal in Hamilton County again.

But where, during the period while the mad indignation of the people was breaking through the crust that confined it—where were the public monitors?

**THE PUBLIC DEBT AND DANGER.**  
The reduction of public debt in March was \$14,238,824, and for three-quarters of the current fiscal year it has been about \$82,000,000. The country does not desire a reduction so rapid, nor is it beneficial to any public interest, now that the National credit has been placed on a solid foundation. The country has learned that the taxes are not seriously felt, and that the distribution of money raised by taxes in the redemption of bonds immediately restores it to circulation again among the people from whom it is taken. The serious objections to a rapid redemption of bonds at this time are two-fold. It tends to break down the National banking system, and it hastens the substitution of silver for gold in the Treasury reserves.

Each of these evils could easily be removed by legislation. The McPherson bill and the repeal of the tax on circulation would probably suffice to save the banking system from harm for some years. The repeal of the silver act, or the suspension of silver coinage, would save the Treasury from harm by gradual exhaustion of its gold reserve. But, as matters stand, both evils exist and are serious. The surrender of bank circulation goes on steadily, though slowly. Against about \$70,000,000 of bonds redeemed last month, there was a surrender of over \$3,000,000 of bank circulation; the banks did not find it sufficiently profitable to buy other bonds in place of those called. It will go on as long as the existing laws remain in force, and the more rapidly the bonds are redeemed the more rapidly the circulation will be retired. The exhaustion of the gold reserve is

hastened because, in the redemption of bonds, gold is demanded and must be paid. But gold is also required for all settlements at the New-York Clearing House, for payment of interest, for disbursements abroad, and for other purposes. So long as the Treasury is required to pay out \$3,000,000 gold per month in the purchase of useless silver, and at the same time to pay out in the purchase of bonds an amount of gold equal to the nominal surplus revenue, the gold reserve in the Treasury must be steadily depleted.

Congress has the power to remedy both evils, by legislation which ought not to require a single day's discussion. But since it refuses, the Secretary of the Treasury has power to guard against the depletion of the gold reserve. This he can do by declining to purchase bonds at any time when by so doing he will diminish the reserve of gold. His monthly statement, issued yesterday, represents that he has on hand for the redemption of notes only \$150,000,000 of "cash available." But it has been shown that a large part of this consists of silver, which is not available. Yesterday's statement proves that about \$67,000,000 of the "cash available" is composed of silver dollars, silver bullion and fractional coins. It would be wiser if the Secretary of the Treasury should decline to allow the gold actually available to be depleted any further.

**ADIRONDACK LEGISLATION.**  
A sensible Adirondack bill was ordered to a third reading in the Senate on Monday evening. It provides for the creation of a forest commission, under whose direction the lands necessary for a proper reservation are to be laid out, located and protected from trespassers. Another reading will pass this bill and then it goes to the Assembly, but it is difficult to conjecture what action that body will take upon it.